

# Updates and Recent News from the Federal Communications Commission

March 2014



Brought to you by the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau's  
Consumer Affairs & Outreach Division

## CAOD Launches Outreach Webpage



CAOD recently launched their brand new Outreach webpage. This page showcases the various types of Outreach that our office does on behalf of the Commission both locally and nationwide. Consumers will be able to get information about upcoming events and other outreach the FCC is doing as well as explore past events and outreach efforts. They will also have access to empowering resources and be able to engage in consumer dialogue through various social media platforms. We will update the page frequently to create an interactive experience. The page is located at: [www.fcc.gov/Outreach](http://www.fcc.gov/Outreach)

## The Accessibility & Innovation Initiative to Host Chairman's Awards for Advancement in Accessibility

Each year individuals, organizations, industries, and government put forth new ideas to make communication tools easier to use and more accessible to more people. This June, the A&I Initiative will host the 3rd Chairman's Awards for Advancement in Accessibility to recognize and honor outstanding

efforts in the private and public sector, as well as public-private partnerships, that advance accessibility. Nominations are being accepted through April 15, 2014.

**Blog Post on Chairman's AAA Nominations:** <http://fcc.us/1evi2SV>

For more information,  
please visit:

[www.fcc.gov/Outreach](http://www.fcc.gov/Outreach)

or contact the  
Consumer &  
Governmental Affairs  
Bureau's Consumer  
Affairs & Outreach  
Division (CAOD) at:  
[Outreach@fcc.gov](mailto:Outreach@fcc.gov)

### CAOD Staff Members:

Susan McLean: Chief  
Sherry Dawson: Deputy  
Chief  
Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa:  
Associate Chief

Anthony Butler  
Helen Chang  
Diana Coho  
Donice Jones  
Kelly Jones  
Rebecca Lockhart  
Jamal Mazrui  
Celeste McCray

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

- *Older Americans' Month Event: May 22, 2014*
- *Accessible Social Media: July 17, 2014*
- To see all events, visit:  
[www.fcc.gov/events](http://www.fcc.gov/events)

## Recent Events

### Women's History Month Tech Fair

The International Bureau in partnership with the Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division (CAOD) hosted a Women's History Month Tech Fair on March 5-6, 2014. Approximately 330 students ranging from 5th to 8th grade from four DC schools attended.

There were 17 exhibits that showcased Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) career options, encouraged students to consider STEM higher education and STEM careers and provided students with educational and enrichment tools to build paths towards successful STEM opportunities. The exhibitors included industry representatives, summer camps and colleges and universities.

The students were excited and engaged during the event because they were able to participate in numerous hands-on activities including building rocket launchers, learning how to code video games and discovering how to use interactive maps through a technology display. One exhibit that especially impressed the kids had a robotics demonstration and computer games that were built by kids their own age.



Students learning to code on tablets.



Student playing a game designed by a kid her age at a summer camp.



Consumer at an exhibit at the FCC's National Consumer Protection Week Consumer Information Expo.

### National Consumer Protection Week Consumer Information Expo

In recognition of National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau hosted a Consumer Information Expo on March 12, 2014 to educate the public on consumer protection issues related to communications.

The FCC has been an active participant in NCPW for the past ten years. This year's Expo had approximately 20 exhibitors including representatives from private industry, wireless carriers, federal government agencies and non-profit organizations.

## **Accessibility & Innovation Initiative Speaker Series Juan Gilbert: Innovation in Voting Accessibility**

As part of the Accessibility & Innovation Initiative Speaker Series, Dr. Juan E. Gilbert, winner of the 2012 Chairman's Award for Advancement in Accessibility in the Civic Participation Solutions category, spoke on March 11, 2014 at the FCC. The event highlighted his lab's work on Prime III, a secure, multimodal electronic voting system that addresses accessibility issues. You can view a webcast of the event here: <http://www.fcc.gov/events/accessibility-innovation-initiative->



Dr. Gilbert demonstrating the Prime III Voting System in the FCC's Technology Experience Center.

## **The IP-Transition**

With the release of the Technology Transition Order on January 31, 2014, the Commission initiated a proceeding that will allow the agency and the public to evaluate how consumers are being affected by changes in communications networks.

The order invited providers to submit voluntary service-based experiment proposals to test real-world applications of planned changes in technology that are likely to have tangible effects on consumers; invited additional proposals for sponsored proof-of-concept rural broadband experiments; took steps in developing and funding an interagency collaborative research program into IP-based technologies for individuals with disabilities, and initiated a proposal for ongoing data initiatives.

The Commission has hosted workshops on this initiative:

### **Workshop on Research Initiatives on IP-Based Relay Services:**

<http://www.fcc.gov/events/consumer-and-governmental-affairs-bureau-announces-workshop-research-initiative-ip-based-rela>

### **Rural Broadband Workshop:**

<http://www.fcc.gov/events/rural-broadband-workshop>

### **Workshop on the Numbering Testbed:**

<http://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-chief-technologist-host-numbering-testbed-workshop>

The agency will continue to have workshops and release orders and notices to seek the information necessary to ensure that, as networks transition, public safety is assured, access is universal, competition is promoted, and consumers are protected. We will keep consumers up-to-date on the various workshops and orders connected to the IP transition on our CAOD webpage: <http://www.fcc.gov/outreach>.

### **Upcoming Event:**

#### **Technology Transitions and Public Safety:**

<http://www.fcc.gov/events/technology-transitions-and-public-safety>